

Alabama Governor's **YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM** for high school students with disabilities



June 6 - 10, 2010
Troy University
Troy, Alabama

What's included:

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- How to Become a Delegate
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- Reference Forms (2)

Application deadline:
March 19, 2010

Sponsored by
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services • Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs •
Alabama Department of Education • Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment
of People with Disabilities • Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities • Troy University •
Alabama Department of Mental Health • Montgomery Independent Living Center •
Governor's Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

about



What is the Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)?

YLF is an innovative and intensive leadership program for high school students with disabilities throughout Alabama. With the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), youth with disabilities have more opportunities to become contributing members and leaders in society. However, many challenges remain for youth with disabilities. YLF is designed to assist students with disabilities in developing leadership skills and in utilizing resources that can help them face such challenges and become full members of society. YLF will be held June 6 - 10, 2010, at Troy University, Troy, Alabama.

Who may participate in YLF?

All high school students with disabilities who are juniors or seniors OR between the ages of 17-21 may apply. Those who would like to develop their leadership potential, participate in extracurricular and community activities, and who demonstrate the ability to interact well with others should submit applications. Approximately 30 students will be selected as delegates on a competitive basis. There is NO COST to the delegates to attend (including food, lodging and any needed accommodations). However, delegates are responsible for their own transportation to and from Troy University.

What happens at YLF?

The Youth Leadership Forum...

- Youth with disabilities share their experiences with each other.
- Delegates learn about self-esteem, self-advocacy, career choice, independent living and assistive technology.
- Successful adults with and without disabilities who are community leaders, legislators and professionals will share their knowledge on leadership.
- A Personal Leadership Plan is written by the delegates to help them to become leaders in their communities.
- Delegates get involved in fun social activities such as a swim party, talent show and dance.



How to Become a Delegate

Am I eligible?

To be eligible for the Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum, students must:

- (a) have a disability (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act);
- (b) be in the 11th or 12th grade (or between the ages of 17 - 21) as of Dec. 31, 2009;
- (c) have demonstrated leadership potential in school and the community; and
- (d) live in Alabama.

How do I apply?

1. The completed packet should be received no later than March 19, 2010. If mailing, send to:

Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum
2419 Gordon Smith Dr.
Mobile, AL 36617

or it may be faxed to 251-478-2198.

2. The two reference forms must be completed by individuals other than family members and returned by the adults making the reference.

How are delegates selected?

1. All applicants will be interviewed by phone to aid the selection committee in learning more about each potential delegate. The students who are selected for YLF will be notified by March 31, 2010.
2. Approximately 30 delegates will be selected to attend the forum. Delegates who are selected to attend the forum will be notified by March 31, 2010. Additional detailed information on the forum will subsequently be provided to those selected to attend.
3. After being selected, delegates will be asked to fill out a confirmation form and provide additional information to the YLF Committee.

Need more information on YLF?

You may write the address above or you may call 1-800-671-6842 (voice) or 1-800-499-1816 (TTY) and ask for the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities or e-mail us at YLF@rehab.alabama.gov.

YLF APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Last_____First_____Middle_____

Nickname_____ Home Telephone Number (____)_____

Sex: M__ F__ Race_____ Birthdate ____/____/____ School Grade _____

E-mail address_____

Social Security Number_____

Fax number (____)_____

Home address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip Code_____ County _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (circle choice)_____

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name of School_____

School Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip Code_____ County _____

School Telephone Number (____)_____

SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Other schools attended _____

List any special awards, honors or recognitions for academic, school or community-related activities you have received from the 7th grade through the present: _____

Career or job interests _____

ORGANIZATIONS and ACTIVITIES

Please list school, volunteer, religious, social, athletic or other activities or organizations in which you have participated during the last four years:

ORGANIZATION/ACTIVITY	GRADE IN SCHOOL	LEADERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY OR INVOLVEMENT
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

WORK EXPERIENCE

List any part-time job experience, paid or volunteer, and briefly describe your duties _____

Do you currently have a part-time job? Yes (___) No (___) How many hours per week? _____

Can you make job arrangements to attend the Youth Leadership Forum? Yes (___) No (___)

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Using a few phrases or adjectives, describe yourself. _____

2. What three things concern you most about your future? _____

3. Which of the items listed in the fact sheet under "What happens at YLF" interests you most?

4. What would you like to learn about it? _____

5. What else would you like to tell us about yourself? _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In your own words, please describe your disability. This information will assist in assuring that we include delegates with a diversity of disabilities. _____

ONSET OF YOUR DISABILITY (date) ____/____/____

Check all that apply:

- AUTISM
- BLINDNESS
 - Visual disability
 - I read Braille
 - I read with large print
 - I need assistance with mobility
- DEAFNESS
- HARD OF HEARING
 - I use sign language
 - I use real time captioning
 - I use lip reading
 - I need interpreter services
 - Other _____
- DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY
Describe _____
- LEARNING DISABILITY
- MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITY
- MULTIPLE DISABILITIES
- NEURO/MUSCULAR DISABILITY
- ORTHOPEDIC DISABILITY
 - I use a wheelchair
 - I cannot walk long distances
 - I cannot walk up stairs
- TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
- OTHER DISABILITY _____
Describe _____

1. Please list the school classes in which you are currently enrolled: _____
2. Are you a consumer of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services? Yes (___) No (___)
Children's Rehabilitation Service? Yes (___) No (___) Name of social worker _____
Vocational Rehabilitation Service? Yes (___) No (___) Name of counselor _____
3. List the name(s) of your local newspaper(s) (hometown & other): _____
4. Name of State Senate Representative _____ District Number _____
5. Name of State House Representative _____ District Number _____

ATTENDANCE

One hundred percent attendance is expected of each participant. To make sure you do not have unavoidable conflicts, please compare your schedule with the program deadline dates on the "How to Become a Delegate" page before completing your application.

If selected, do you make a commitment to attend the entire forum? Yes (___) No (___)

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent

Date

REFERENCES

Two references are required. One reference must be from a person in your high school (a teacher, counselor, advisor or the principal at your current school), and the second reference must be from an individual in your community (any adult who knows you well, other than a parent or relative — example: scout leader, church leader, service provider, other community leader, etc.). Please list the two references below. The two reference forms found on this website should be completed and returned by the adults making the references. Letters of reference are accepted but are not required.

1. Name of Reference _____ Phone Number (_____) _____
Position/Title _____
2. Name of Reference _____ Phone Number (_____) _____
Position/Title _____

Still have questions?

We have answers. You can reach us by phone at
1-800-671-6842 (voice) • 1-800-499-1816 (TTY)
or by e-mail at YLF@rehab.alabama.gov.

www.rehab.alabama.gov/ylf

Please mail the completed application to:



**2419 Gordon Smith Dr.
Mobile, AL 36617**

YLF REFERENCE FORM #1

TO THE APPLICANT Please TYPE or PRINT

Last name _____ First _____ Middle _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone Number (____) _____ County _____

The reference form should be returned by the person completing the form, not the applicant. The comments will be used for the Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum selection purposes only.

Permission: I hereby request that you complete and furnish this reference information to Youth Leadership Forum of Alabama.

Student or parent signature _____

TO THE REFERENCE Please TYPE or PRINT

The person named above is an applicant for the Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum. The Selection Committee attaches considerable weight to the statements made by the references of the applicant. The Committee is mindful of the time necessary to prepare this reference and gratefully acknowledges your help.

Please return this form by **MARCH 19, 2010**, to the Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum, 2419 Gordon Smith Drive, Mobile, AL 36617.

Name of Reference _____ Telephone Number (____) _____

Position/Title _____

School/Firm/Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

1. For how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? _____

2. What do you consider the applicant's primary talents or strengths? _____

3. Comment on the applicant's relationships with his or her peers. _____

YLF SCALE	OUTSTANDING	EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	POOR	UNABLE TO JUDGE
ABILITY TO WORK WITH OTHERS						
CHARACTER						
CONCERN FOR OTHERS						
CURIOSITY						
INITIATIVE						
INTEREST IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS						
LEADERSHIP						
MATURITY						
ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS						
PERSISTENCE AND DRIVE						
POISE						
RESPONSIBILITY						

4. Please comment generally on the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his or her behavior in a group setting (participant or observer?), interest in community affairs and potential for becoming a community leader. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

 Signature of Reference

 Date

YLF REFERENCE FORM #2

TO THE APPLICANT

Please TYPE or PRINT

Last name _____ First _____ Middle _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone Number (____) _____ County _____

The reference form should be returned by the person completing the form, not the applicant. The comments will be used for the Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum selection purposes only.

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 Signature of Reference

 Date